

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-12, 14-21, and 23-25 are currently pending. Claims 1, 6-9, 12, 14, and 20-21 have been amended. Claims 4, 13, and 22 have been cancelled. Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 15-19 are allowed and claims 4-6, 7, 10-11, 13-14, and 21-23 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 21 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 20). As such, claim 21 is allowable.

The Examiner objected to claims 6-9 as being dependent from a cancelled claim. Claims 6-9 have been amended to correct the dependency error. In addition, the Examiner noted a typographical error in claim 9 that has been corrected. The Examiner also noted that "said handle" in claim 9 was unclear. Applicants have amended claim 9 to recite "said bag handle" to clarify the claim.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 8-9, 12, 20, and 24-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Uhlinger (U.S. Patent No. 4,043,102) in combination with Sullivan (U.S. Patent No. 2,250,846).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 4. As such, claim 1 is allowable. In addition, claims 2-3, 6-11, and 24 depend from claim 1 and are also allowable.

Claim 12 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 13. As such, claim 12 is allowable. In addition, claim 14 depends from claim 12 and is also allowable.

Claim 20 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 22. As such, claim 20 is allowable. In addition, claims 23 and 25 depend from claim 20 and are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 6-12, 14-21, and 23-25 are allowable.

The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TL / Otterlee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Docket No.: 013002-9050-00
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